

Daily Planet

July, 2002

Vol. 27, Number 7

Official Newsletter of the San Francisco Northstars Motorcycle Club

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2002

JULY 28	Awhanee Brunch Ride— <i>Lisa</i>
JULY 31	Club Meeting—S.F. Brew Pub
AUG 17–18	Sierra Ride— <i>Earl</i>
AUG 24–25 DIRT	Middlecreek— <i>Patrick</i>
AUG 28	Club Meeting—S.F. Brew Pub
SEP 1	Open Terrain
SEP 21–22	Reno Air Races/Loyalton— <i>Bret</i>
SEP 25	Club Meeting—S.F. Brew Pub
OCT 5–6	Songdog Rally, Craig's Hot Springs Ride, or Ridgerunner
OCT 30	Club Meeting—S.F. Brew Pub
NOV 3	President's Surprise— <i>Earl</i>
NOV 22–25 DIRT	California City— <i>Earl</i>
NOV 27	Club Meeting—S.F. Brew Pub
DEC 7 DIRT	Middlecreek— <i>Patrick</i>
DEC 15	Shiver 'n Shake
DEC ??	Club Meeting—S.F. Brew Pub

AWHANEY BRUNCH RIDE Yosemite National Park Sunday, July 28

Meet: SF/Berkeley/Oakland contingent gather at the Shell station on Park Blvd. off 580 in Oakland. Meet there at **6:30**; we'll leave at **6:40**.

All others gather at the Vasco Road Shell station in Livermore at **7:00**

Time: Ride leaves Livermore at **7:15**—bikes & bellies fueled, ready to ride. There will be no breakfast stop.

Brunch: Reservations are at **11:30**; the buffet costs **\$32**

Tips: Leave home with a full tank of gas. The first gas stop is 135 miles from S.F. The second gas stop is at 115 miles from the first. From that gas stop back to SF is 160 miles. Ride the appropriate hardware with the appropriate range.

IMPORTANT: There is a \$10 entrance fee into Yosemite for motorcycles! It is FREE if you have a National Parks pass (\$50 a year), which includes spouse. The Ntl. Parks Pass admits the pass signee and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle if a park has a per vehicle entrance fee. Where a per person entrance fee is charged, the National Parks Pass admits the pass signee, spouse, children and parents. Borrow a pass if you can.

I'll post the route on the list. See you all there!

MEETING MINUTES

Again, turnout was high: Earl, Wendy, Mark Boyd, Allan, Lisa B., Gretchen, Russell, Catfish and Craig. Guests included Kari, Ken, Brad, Dave, Josh, Bob, Tom, and Bill. ☆
New bike reports: Earl promptly threw a catalog on the table showing his latest purchase: a 2-stroke, 30cc, 4 horsepower pullstart POLINI. These mini sport bikes come with the option of a water cooled edition, and offer up to 12-horsepower engines. Earl (who proudly sported a raspberry to prove it) claimed it scared the shit out of him at 40mph. ☆
Treasury report: \$1,334.78 in the kitty. Time for a party!
Ride reports: Lots of ridin' going on. Allan Paul rode to Chico. Went up Feather River, Quincy Laport road which was recently paved; up 49—Dead Man's Curves; down 89 to

Two New Members!

Congratulations to Kari Holmgren and Bob Pisani who were voted in as new Northstar members at our last meeting. Hymn! Hymn! Fuck him!

Truckee to North Lake Tahoe, Virginia City, Carson Pass; 760 miles in all. ☆ Gretchen reported on a most excellent turnout for her Carson City ride in June. See her ride report in the pages to follow. The hotel had an arcade, which included a Boat Ride game. All I know is what I heard: that Mike was the

“Blaze the trail man!

***And don’t piss off
the locals!”***

throttle guy and Gretchen steered. As you can imagine, it was a perfect match. Earl was heard to say how excited he was when he discovered there was an arcade in the area for kids, as Bob looked at Earl rather mysteriously. ☆ Russell talked about his experience on the VFR at a Thunderhill track day. His first lap out he was passed by just about everyone as if standin’ still. His next ride found him chasing down Ducatis, and finally by the end of the day there he was ridin’ with the RC51’s and Superhawks. He managed to shave off the entire left side of his tire, turning all three brake rotors multicolored blues and black. ☆ Wendy is waiting for a WR450 which will need to be lowered properly, as she learned the hard way when she lowered her CR500 which threw her onto the ground faster than you can say boo! She boasted that the GTS is running again and claimed “no more trick motorcycles for me!” ☆ The “help” seems to be improving: our waitress this month was a charming Polish woman named Magda who shared her experience as to what life is like as a motorcyclist in Poland where she rides a Ducati Monster, and used to ride a Bandit. The roads are poor and there aren’t many people who ride. She mentioned that the wiser riders tend to ride enduros (and spend more time cleaning their bikes than riding) although there are a few sport bikes around. If you want to speed she explained that the police have “not so nice motorbikes” (old BMWs) so it’s easy to lose them in a chase. As a woman she’s a rare site to behold since

there are few women, or men for that matter, who ride Ducatis in Poland. She showed a lot of excitement about coming on the Awhanee brunch ride. I’ve offered to lend her the GB500 for the day; but she has a boyfriend who would like to come as well. Anyone have a spare bike in their garage that they can lend for the day on July 28? ☆ At some point mid meeting, a man walked into the room asking whose 650 was parked behind him, because he didn’t want to knock it over. The crowd went wild and gave him a round of applause. ☆ Tom Yaskota was a guest of Craig’s who recently organized a San Francisco dinner group; motorcyclists who get together for dinner on alternating week-nights. Contact Tom Yaskota if you’re interesting in getting on the e-mail list: yaskota@ntr.net—*Lisa*

Ride To Work Day—July 17



Pass the word!

Contact your favorite radio station!

Contact your local newspaper!

Riding’s not just for weekends anymore!

Being a Northstar Definitely Has its Advantages...

Jason and Rita McCrystle visited my house and all is well. Jason has his father’s BMW and will be in a position to join us for rides some time in the near future. Those of you who know Jason should get on his ass a bit to make sure he doesn’t procrastinate: 510-501-2866. These are my thoughts: don’t bug him about his dad or frogged Ducati.

I had the pleasure of working with Earl and Hans to get my XR650R ready for Alaska. I will haul the bike on the back of the van and expect to ride many miles from various base camps while spending the summer in Alaska. This experience reminded me why I am a Northstar. Besides the riding and comradere, the experience/knowledge/assistance given is invaluable. I have ridden many miles with Northstars over the past 7 years and consider it a privilege to be included in the club. Thanks folks. Craig, you should check in to compare notes on our plans in case we can meet. My travel partners have the full trailer deal and our base camps might be a welcomed R&R.

By the by, one hallmark of Northstars is keeping your ride well maintained. Two trips to Earl’s shop and Hans needing to tighten all my rear spokes and no shop ever telling me about lubing the chain adjustment bolts is proof that always taking your bike for dealer service is not enough. There are things only years of experience can teach and we have access to folks with this experience. If you are like me and not inclined/able to maintain your own bike, check with your fellow club members for tips on what needs doing to keep your ride in great shape. Remember, your bike will take you further in an hour than you can walk in a day.—**Joe Volpe**

CARSON CITY

Good group. Great roads. Gorgeous weather. No tickets. What more can a biker desire? Well...

14 bikes with 14 riders led by Gretchen headed to Carson City through Tesla, Corral Hollow, 132, La Grange, 108 over Sonora Pass—beautiful! The snow was evident in the mountains, but the sun made the weather on the roads perfect while the views made it worth slowing down to enjoy—yes, really! Plus there was the passing of all the Harleys including 10 in one blast on 108 that provided another smile and rush.

Casualties were minor: Frances who just got his bike out of the shop for \$660, had a loose filter before he started the ride and then a throttle cable locked open just before Dardanelles.

Gretchen directed everyone on to lunch while she went back to look for the missing bikes. Twenty miles shy of Dardanelles there was Earl, Jim, Patrick, and Kari about set getting Frances' bike back in order—thank you! Everyone hooked up again in Walker for lunch at Mountain View BBQ. Thanks to Ken's suggestion, Gretchen ordered the BBQ combo which took 5 people to consume it! Thanks to Tom Schubb for joining us on the ride and for recommending such a great lunch spot.

Then on we went over Monitor Pass to the Cutthroat Saloon in Markleeville. This time while the police circled the one block town,

we drank water. No DUI stops this year—whew! Then we headed up thru Diamond Valley into Genoa to join the Harleys—yes, there were 3 Harley rallies this same weekend and they all ended up in Geno—at “Nevada's Oldest Thirst Parlor” as the sign says. This time we had a small nip and weaved our bikes



Someone's hungry!

back through the Harley parking lot to make our way to Carson City. It was time to get parked for the night—oh-oh! Now who the heck hired Security at our hotel to tell us not to park so many bikes in the motorcycle parking area? And I hear he had a Virago dressed up as a “wanna be Harley.” No wonder he did not like us sport riders. Well, the bikes got safely parked and a group of us made our way into the spa and pool. Ohhhh

what a feelin' after a long day of riding. A perfect prelude to the fabulous steak house dinner we consumed before we challenged Earl to the Hydro Launch game. Earl did reign as champion although Gretchen won one game with Mike at the throttle while Gretchen steered. Thank goodness it wasn't a motorcycle!

Sunday came and we lucked out with a second day of perfect weather. Tom, Bob and Ken headed out early to get home for Father's Day, while Bret headed out early to be sure and get his 600+ miles in that day! Wow! The 10 of us remaining headed out and enjoyed a variety of roads: Monitor Pass up and back, Ebbett's Pass, detour to ride Spicer

Road out and back—very worth it! Stopped at Murphy's for lunch. We were beaming over our Rootbeer floats as we enjoyed the high we got from enjoying the beautiful roads we just came from and the perfect sights on 4 that we had of Mike's hidden waterfall he shared with us, Mosquito Lake and more... Then Mike, Craig, and Kari took off and headed back toward spa country to enjoy another day of riding and spa adventures. Gretchen, Jim, Earl, and Doug headed off toward Sheep Ranch Road/ Railroad Flat and then Earl left in search of more twisty fun, while the others took Jesus Maria Road to 26 and homeward. Do check out Jesus Maria if you have not! Fun-fun-ooohh!

All-in-all a great weekend was had by all.—Gretchen

Hey Gretchen,

Thanks for a great time! Kari, Catfish and I had a nice time riding up Sonora a second time on Sunday. We got to Bridgeport and hit the water at Travertine in the late afternoon. It was beautiful! Bathtub warm water with a slight breeze. Can't beat it! Dropped down into town for dinner. Heard some rumors about a woman motorcyclist with an appetite that can't be believed! Some claims had her eating a whole side of beef at the BBQ place up in Walker. Local restauranteers were rubbing their hands together in the hopes that she would show up at their establishment but alas, it never happened....

Camping under the trees in Buckeye was very nice. Not too cold at night. Clear weather with a zillion or two stars out. Saw at least one satellite and was lulled to sleep by the sound of the river down below. This morning Kari and I braved the decent down to the river to soak. It was a tad on the warm side but still worth it. I dunked myself in the river to cool off. I'd say that snow melt is a bit chilly! :0

The three of us set off for Sonora once again. The fire was still burning up near Walker and 395 was closed down. Kari and I parted ways with Catfish somewhere near the Dardanelles. It was a nice ride down the hill and the valley was not as hot as it usually is.....—Craig



Who tossed the fish into the hot tub? Kari and Catfish enjoy a soak.



“What’d they say?...

Has anything happened yet?

I’m def, and it all sounds

just like the last meeting.”

—Bob Pisani

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